

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Bryan et al.

SERIAL NO.: Continuation of  
Serial No.  
09/783,910

GROUP ART UNIT:

FILED: August 8, 2001

EXAMINER:

FOR: IMPLANTABLE JOINT PROSTHESIS

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 46739/250564

Assistant Commissioner for  
Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

DATE: August 8, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to any examination on the merits, please amend the specification  
as indicated below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first paragraph of the specification to read as follows:

This application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/783,910, filed February 13,  
2001, which claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of Provisional U.S. Serial No.  
60/223,863, filed 8 August 2000, and entitled INSTRUMENTATION AND  
METHOD FOR IMPLANTING A PROSTHETIC INTERVERTEBRAL BODY and

092429-080801